

Message Text

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43

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 FBIE-00 DHA-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3470

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I.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJECT: PRESS CONVERAGE ON PRISONER ISSUE

1. MARCH 4 EXCELSIOR DEVOTED FRONT PAGE HEADLINE TO STARK AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN AID BILL REQUIRING SECRETARY TO REPORT TO CONGRESS THRICE YEARLY ON STATUS OF PRISONERS IN MEXICO. FOLLOWUP ARTICLE ON MARCH 5, ALSO ON FRONT PAGE, NOTED APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT. MARCH 5 ISSUE ALSO CARRIED STATEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL PEDRO OJEDA PAULLADA DENYING THAT PRISONERS ARE MISTREATED, STATING THAT ALL PERSONS WHO LIVE IN OR WHO ARE IN THE COUNTRY HAVE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS GUARANTEED. IN SAME ARTICLE TWO FEDERAL DISTRICT JUDGES ARE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THEY KNEW OF NO CASES WHERE ACCUSED PERSONS HAD BEEN TORTURED.

2. EXCELSIOR ALSO EDITORIALIZED THAT THERE WAS NOT SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF MISTREATMENT OF AMERICAN PRISONERS, THOUGH IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT IRREGULARITIES OCCURRED IN SPECIFIC INSTANCES, NOT ONLY TOUCHING UPON AMERICANS BUT UPON OTHER PRISONERS AS WELL. FROM THIS, THE EDITOR DETERMINED THAT THERE WAS NO POLICY OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST A AMERICANS. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE SUBJECT WAS OF INTEREST TO EVERYONE, INTEREST IN THE PERSONAL RIGHTS NOT ONLY OF PERSONS CONFINED IN MEXICAN PENITENTIARIES, BUT ALSO OF MEXICAN IN US JAILS.

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3. MARCH 4 EL SOL CARRIED LENGTHY ARTICLE ENTITLED
"PENAL SYSTEM TO BE HUMANIZED", WITH SUBTITLE
INDICATING LACK OF SECURITY AND MEANS FOR
REHABILITATION OF PRISONERS IN MEXICAN PENITENTIARIES.
ARTICLE DEVOTES SECTION EACH TO TEN PENITENTIARIES
IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF COUNTRY, NOTING PROGRESS OR
LACK OF SAME IN EACH.

4. MARCH 4 HERALDO AND OTHER PAPERS CARRIED INTERVIEW
WITH NEW SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT MARIO G. REBOLLEDO
FERNANDEZ, QUOTING HIM AS SAYING THAT THE PRISONS IN
MEXICO DO NOT FULFILL THEIR MISSION TO REHABILITATE
PRISONERS.

5. ALL ARTICLES BEING POUCHED.
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